budding state to the fruiting plant. By dissecting the buds, there was plainly revealed the minute, undeveloped, spurless, purplish corolla, with its two stamens enveloping the pistil. This is its most northern station reported thus far. I have collected the type on the Island of Nantucket.

Of the goldenrods, Solidago odora and ulmifolia were the common ones, during my visit, and the common Aster, in full bloom by September 1st, was the most interesting species Aster polyphyllus. I must not forget to mention the delicate Stachys hyssopifolius, abundant by ponds and along the roadside, and Lycopus sessilifolius, common by ponds, but not reported hitherto from this locality. Though mentioning but a few of the plants collected, I have tried to give some of the characteristic ones, and to show the attractiveness of the place from a botanical point of view. —WALTER DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

EDITORIAL.

IT SEEMS to be the opinion of many that systematic work among phanerogams is an almost finished subject, and that in the great problems relating to histology, physiology, thallophytes, etc., lies the chief work of the future botany. Any one who has worked with phanerogams knows how far from true such a notion is, even when using the old gross characters. But it is still farther from the truth when one comes to consider the relations of histology and embryology to systematic work. These great and comparatively new departments of botany are furnishing data for the systematist, and until the intimate structure and life history of every plant is thoroughly known, the work of systematic botany can not pretend to be more than tentative. It is well known that the gross organs of phanerogams are subject to great variation, variations which are likely to arise in organs which have important work to do, and hence must attempt to adapt themseves to changing conditions. This fact frequently makes specific lines very confusing, and it is just here that histology comes to one's aid. The minuter structures are by no means so sensitive to external conditions as the gross organs, and are more apt to endure the strain of environment unchanged. It is, therefore, a tolerably safe rule that those organs are of greatest use to the systematist which are of least vital importance to the plant, and histology thus often gives us a specific thread upon which to string the widest diversity of gross organs. Contributions to systematic work among phanerogams can be made in no more effective way than by searching their minute structures for characters that will hold. Our ambitious young botanists would be more profitably engaged in doing such work than in magnifying the variations to be discovered in gross organs and insisting hat they should be considered new varieties or species. This work of hunting for variations in flowers, leaves, etc., simply illustrates, what every one already knows, that essential organs will vary.